

Application No. 10/649,094  
Examiner: Tran, Tan N

### REMARKS

#### Examiner interview summary

Applicants' representative P. S. Dara had a telephonic conversation with Examiner Tan Tran on May 18, 2006 to discuss the possibility of carrying out an Examiner's amendment of certain claims among the allowed claims. These claims were withdrawn claims (arising from a restriction requirement) that had been allowed by the Examiner as a result of allowance of elected claims under examination.

Prior to their allowance, Examiner had carried out an Examiner's amendment to modify certain language in these claims (all of which were dependent). However, it was subsequently determined by Applicants that additional modifications of at least some of these claims were needed with particular reference to the dependency of these claims on their independent claims. Therefore, the present amendments are being submitted as a result of Applicants' desire to redraft these dependent claims in independent form in order to ensure complete consistency regarding the language used in all of the remaining claims in this case.

It was towards this end, that Applicants' representative Dara had telephoned Examiner Tran on May 18, 2006 to request Examiner to carry out either an Examiner's amendment or a cancellation of allowed claims 6-9 and 18-21. However, Examiner Tran indicated that the only acceptable method for taking these steps would involve filing of an amendment under 37 C.F.R. 1.312.

As a result of this telephone conversation, Applicants respectfully submit claim amendments herein.

#### Present Status of Patent Application

Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1-5, 11, and 13-17 remain allowed in the present application. These claims have been allowed in the Notice of Allowance mailed 3/31/2006. Claims 6-9 and 18-21 are currently canceled without prejudice, waiver or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the canceled claims in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose, and do not intend to dedicate canceled subject matter to the public.

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CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and upon entry of this paper, claims 1-5, 11, and 13-17 remain allowed as per the Notice of Allowance mailed 3/31/2006 while claims 6-9 and 18-21 stand currently canceled. Applicants respectfully request entry of these submitted amendments. The issue fee associated with Notice of Allowance dated March 13, 2006 has not been paid as of the filing date of this amendment.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned representative at (404) 610-5689.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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P. S. Dara  
Reg. No. 52,793

P. S. Dara  
7115 Threadstone Overlook  
Duluth, GA 30097  
(404)-610-5689

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Commissioner for Patents on the date shown below.  
Date of facsimile: 22 May 2006

  
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Signature  
Name: P. S. Dara